

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00533 01 OF 02 252022Z
ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /087 W
-----130519 252042Z /64

R 251848Z OCT 77
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2416
SECDEF WASH DC
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0533

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR
SUBJ: THE EASTERN RESPONSE TO THE WESTERN DATA PROPOSAL

1. DESCRIPTION BY TARASOV ON OCTOBER 24 OF THE EASTERN
COMPROMISE PROPOSAL FOR FURTHER EXCHANGE OF DATA WAS CONFIRMED
IN INFORMAL SESSION OF OCTOBER 25. (DETAILS IN SEPTTEL.)
FOLLOWING IS OUR EVALUATION OF THIS PROPOSAL AND A RECOMMENDA-
TION AS TO FURTHER ACTION.

2. IN OUR VIEW, THE EASTERN RESPONSE TO THE WESTERN
PROPOSAL OF JULY 15 IS THE BEST THE WEST CAN EXPECT AT THIS
POINT. PROCEEDING WITH THE DATA DISCUSSION ON THE LINES NOW
PROPOSED BY THE EAST WOULD LEAVE THE WAY OPEN TO RENEW THE
ATTEMPT TO GET EASTERN DATA ON MAJOR UNITS. BUT WE DOUBT THAT
THE ALLIES CAN PUSH THE EAST FURTHER AT THIS TIME. IN FACT,
ACCEPTANCE OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL PROBABLY IS THE BEST
TACTIC FOR SUBSEQUENTLY BRINGING THE EAST TO EXCHANGE STILL
MORE DETAILED DATA ON ITS FORCES. THE WEST WILL HAVE GREATER

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00533 01 OF 02 252022Z

LEVERAGE TO GET SPECIFIC DETAILS FROM THE EAST WHEN IT CAN MOVE
STEP BY STEP AND CAN DEMONSTRATE THEIR DIRECT RELEVANCE TO
IDENTIFYING THE SOURCES OF THE DISCREPANCY.

3. IN A MAJOR CONCESSION TO THE WESTERN POSITION, THE
EAST HAS ACCEPTED THE WESTERN CONCEPT THAT THE WEST WOULD TABLE
A SEPARATE FIGURE ON WESTERN MILITARY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO

MULTI-LATERAL HEADQUARTERS AND THAT THESE PERSONNEL WOULD BE OMITTED FROM THE DATA TABLED ON A COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY BASIS. THIS MEANS THAT IF WESTERN DATA WERE TABLED ON THE BASIS NOW ACCEPTED BY THE EAST, THE EAST WOULD NOT RECEIVE ACTUAL WESTERN NATIONAL TOTALS AND THAT THE WEST WILL BE IN A POSITION TO STATE IN THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS AND PUBLICLY AS NEEDED THAT IT HAS NOT PROVIDED NATIONAL FIGURES ON ITS MANPOWER.

4. ADDED TO THIS, THE EAST IS GIVING THE NATO ALLIANCE AS SUCH A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF STATUS IN THE TALKS BY ACCEPTING A TOTAL FIGURE FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO MULTILATERAL NATO HEADQUARTERS IN THE REDUCTION AREA. THE EAST STATES THAT IT HAS NO MULTILATERAL HEADQUARTERS OF THIS TYPE.

5. THE DATA THE EAST PROPOSES TO TABLE WILL BE VALUABLE TO THE WEST IN GETTING AT THE SOURCES OF THE DISCREPANCY. IT WILL GIVE WEST THE DATA IT HAS BEEN SEEKING TO IDENTIFY THE DISTRIBUTION AND EXTENT OF THE DISCREPANCY AMONG THE INDIVIDUAL WARSAW PACT DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE DATA DIVIDING PACT GROUND FORCES BETWEEN PERSONNEL IN MAJOR FORMATIONS AND OTHERS. THIS WILL HELP IN IDENTIFYING THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE DISCREPANCY WITHIN THE FORCES OF THE INDIVIDUAL WARSAW PACT PARTICIPANTS. IT WILL FOR THE FIRST TIME GIVE US THE EAST'S FIGURES FOR SOVIET FORCES IN THE AREA AND PROVIDE FIGURES ON AIR MANPOWER IF THE WEST DESIRES TO EXCHANGE THEM.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00533 01 OF 02 252022Z

6. ONCE THE WEST HAS OBTAINED THIS PROFILE OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN WESTERN AND EASTERN FIGURES ON WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER AND ITS EXTENT AT MAIN POINTS OF DIFFERENCE, THE WEST WILL BE IN A FAR BETTER POSITION TO FOCUS ITS ENQUIRIES ON THE AREAS OF GREATEST DIVERGENCE AND IT WILL HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT THE EAST HAS DONE WITH ITS DATA TO COME TO SUCH DIVERGENCE FROM WESTERN DATA.

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00533 02 OF 02 252029Z
ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13

L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /087 W

-----130615 252041Z /64

R 251848Z OCT 77

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2417

SECDEF WASH DC

INFO USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0533

7. OUTRIGHT WESTERN REFUSAL TO CONSIDER THE EASTERN RESPONSE MIGHT CAST SOME DOUBT ON THE WEST'S WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE THE DATA DISCUSSION, TO IDENTIFY THE SOURCES OF THE DISCREPANCY AND TO COME TO AGREEMENT ON DATA.

8. IF THE WEST SHOULD INSTEAD CONTINUE TO INSIST ON ITS FULL JULY 15 POSITION, THE EAST WOULD BE IN A STRONG POSITION TO ARGUE PUBLICLY THAT IT HAD MADE A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL FOR FURTHER EXCHANGE OF DATA WHICH TOOK OVER MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL. IF THE WEST SOUGHT TO MAKE AN ISSUE OUT OF THE EAST'S RELUCTANCE TO TABLE DATA ON SPECIFIC LARGER UNITS, IT WOULD HAVE TO TRY TO MAKE A CONVINCING CASE FOR THE PROPOSITION THAT THE EAST'S RESPONSE SHOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED NOW BECAUSE PARTICIPANTS HAD TO TURN IMMEDIATELY TO THE ISSUE OF EXCHANGING DATA ON MAJOR UNITS. THIS WOULD BE A HARD CASE TO MAKE. FURTHERMORE, THE WEST COULD NOT CONVINCINGLY CLAIM THAT TABLING DATA SUBSTANTIALLY AS THE WEST ITSELF HAD PROPOSED, INCLUDING SPECIAL TREATMENT OF PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO MULTI-LATERAL HEADQUARTERS, WOULD PREJUDICE THE OVERALL WESTERN SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00533 02 OF 02 252029Z

POSITION IN THE TALKS SOLELY BECAUSE THE CATEGORY OF PERSONNEL IN MAJOR UNITS WOULD NOT BE DIVIDED INTO INDIVIDUAL NATIONALLY DESIGNATED UNITS. (THE ONLY PRACTICAL DIFFERENCE UNDER THE EASTERN RESPONSE IN THE DATA THE WEST WOULD TABLE IS THAT THE US WOULD GIVE ONE TOTAL INSTEAD OF TWO FOR ITS PERSONNEL IN MAJOR FORMATIONS, AND THE FRG ONE FIGURE INSTEAD OF THREE FIGURES FOR ITS PERSONNEL IN MAJOR FORMATION. THE FIGURES PRESENTED BY OTHER ALLIES WOULD BE THE SAME UNDER BOTH PROPOSALS.)

9. OF COURSE, UNDER THE EASTERN RESPONSE, THE EAST WOULD PROVIDE ONLY TWO ITEMS OF INFORMATION ON GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL FOR EACH OF FOUR EASTERN PARTICIPANTS FOR A TOTAL OF

8 ITEMS IN PLACE OF THE AT LEAST 17 ITEMS OF INFORMATION THE EAST WOULD HAVE HAD TO PROVIDE UNDER THE WESTERN PROPOSAL OF JULY 15, 1975. HOWEVER, THE EAST IS UNWILLING TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION AT THIS POINT.

10. IT IS DESIRABLE THAT DATA DISCUSSION ON THE BASIS OF FURTHER EXCHANGE OF DATA BE UNDERWAY WHEN THE PENDING WESTERN INITIATIVE IS MADE IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE CHANGES THAT THE INITIATIVE WILL HAVE A FAVORABLE IMPACT ON THE EASTERN POSITION ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DATA ISSUE.

11. IN THE VIEW OF THE DELEGATION, THE EASTERN RESPONSE TO THE WESTERN PROPOSAL SHOULD PROVE TO BE INTRINSICALLY ACCEPTABLE TO ALL NATO MBFR PARTICIPANTS, EXCEPT POSSIBLY THE FRG. JUDGING BY PAST EXPERIENCE, WHERE FRG OFFICIALS IN BOTH FRG FOREIGN OFFICE AND DEFENSE MINISTRY SUPPORTED TABLING OF NATIONAL TOTALS AND THIS WAS ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, THE FRG DECISION ON WHETHER TO PROCEED ALONG THE LINES AGREEABLE TO THE EAST WILL DEPEND ON THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00533 02 OF 02 252029Z

PERSONAL ATTITUDE OF FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER.

12. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE US SUPPORT ACCEPTANCE OF THE EASTERN RESPONSE AND THAT USNATO BE AUTHORIZED TO SUPPORT ITS ACCEPTANCE WHEN THE TOPIC COMES UP IN THE SPC.RESOR

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DATA, INFORMATION EXCHANGE, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MBFRV00533
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770392-0240
Format: TEL
From: MBFR VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771026/aaaaavqd.tel
Line Count: 201
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b8914028-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 805108
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE EASTERN RESPONSE TO THE WESTERN DATA PROPOSAL
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b8914028-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009